



THIS REPORT CONTAINS ASSESSMENTS OF COMMODITY AND TRADE ISSUES MADE BY USDA STAFF AND NOT NECESSARILY STATEMENTS OF OFFICIAL U.S. GOVERNMENT POLICY

Voluntary - Public

**Date:** 03/05/2010

**GAIN Report Number:** FR9038

## France

**Post:** Paris

### Responding to Global Challenges and Opportunities

**Report Categories:**

Agriculture in the Economy

Agriculture in the News

Food Security

**Approved By:**

Daryl A. Brehm

**Prepared By:**

Lashonda McLeod

**Report Highlights:**

Agricultural Ministers from the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) member countries and key emerging economies met in Paris from February 25-26 for the Committee for Agriculture Ministerial Level meeting to identify action that best responds to the needs of a rapidly changing world. The program titled, "Food and Agricultural Policies for a Sustainable Future Responding to Global Challenges and Opportunities", was the first agriculture ministerial to be held at the OECD in 12 years.

**Executive Summary:**

The agricultural leadership from nearly 40 countries identified what they see as the top issues confronting agriculture over the next several decades, and charted a course for OECD study over the next 10 years. The group agreed that food security, response to climate change, development of more sustainable practices, innovation, and the functioning of markets were top issues. Points of disagreement included the use of biotechnology and the “public good” outputs of agriculture.

**General Information:**

Agricultural Ministers from the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) member countries and key emerging economies met in Paris from February 25-26 for the Committee for Agriculture Ministerial Level meeting to identify action that best responds to the needs of a rapidly changing world. The program titled, “Food and Agricultural Policies for a Sustainable Future Responding to Global Challenges and Opportunities”, was the first agriculture ministerial to be held at the OECD in 12 years.

Ministers of Agriculture from OECD’s 30 member countries and those from enhanced engagement (Brazil, Indonesia, South Africa) and accession candidate countries (Chile, Estonia, Slovenia, Israel, and the Russian Federation), as well as officials from the European Commission, the Food and Agriculture Organization, and the World Trade Organization were represented during discussions around the theme, “Food and Agricultural Policies for a Sustainable Future; Responding to Global Challenges and Opportunities.” This was the first time in 12 years that Ministers for Agriculture had met at the OECD.

Ministers shared their viewpoints on the major challenges to the food and agriculture sector in the next twenty years including increasing production sustainably, while also reducing the carbon footprint, price volatility and the role of speculation, and water use. The opportunities identified in the coming decades hinge on innovation. A vigorous innovation and dissemination policy were deemed as essential to enabling farmers to benefit from future opportunities. The co-chairs’ summary, which summarizes the outcomes of discussions, and the participants’ statements are available on the OECD website [http://www.oecd.org/document/23/0,3343,en\\_21571361\\_43893445\\_44606615\\_1\\_1\\_1\\_1,00.html](http://www.oecd.org/document/23/0,3343,en_21571361_43893445_44606615_1_1_1_1,00.html). The communiqué lays out challenges, opportunities, and guidance to the OECD for future work. The Ministers approved the communiqué [http://www.oecd.org/document/2/0,3343,en\\_2649\\_34487\\_44664898\\_1\\_1\\_1\\_1,00.html](http://www.oecd.org/document/2/0,3343,en_2649_34487_44664898_1_1_1_1,00.html), which was previously prepared by the Advisory Group, an open-membership group composed of delegations, which had been meeting regularly prior to the Ministerial. Additionally, countries emphasized the importance of the Global Research Alliance on Agricultural Greenhouse Gases, a partnership originally developed in close cooperation between the United States and New Zealand. The ideas of the Alliance are to share national and regional level knowledge, identify gaps in the global portfolio of research, and leverage new resources for collaborative projects.